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The American Association of Museums

THE eleventh annual meeting of the Association took place in Washington May 15 to 17 last, and included a joint session with the American Federation of Arts. It was notable both in attendance, in the value of the papers presented, and in the importance of the action taken. The movement to supplement book-learning by object-teaching wherever possible throughout our educational system possesses in museum collections an immense apparatus as yet almost untouched. To the importance of this opportunity the museums of the country are fully awake. Half of the papers presented at the meeting were reports on various educational efforts in different museums or discussions of educational methods in which museums could coöperate. Other papers covered a wide range of questions relating to the internal economy of museums; methods, aims, and apparatus of exhibition; publicity and government.

The constitution of the Association was amended by the establishment of the office of Honorary President; and in recognition of the gift to the nation by Mr. Charles L. Freer of his great collection of Far Eastern art, with the building to be erected in Washington to contain it, Mr. Freer was elected the first Honorary President. The members of the Association offered Mr. Freer the position with sincere pleasure and the warmest hopes of his acceptance. In view of the unprecedented international situation arising out of the European War, a resolution was passed inviting the membership of the Association to inform themselves fully and without delay in regard to the various movements now on foot in this country under distinguished auspices looking to the security of our people and our institutions. Action was taken authorizing the Council at its discretion to develop the official machinery of the Association, to begin publishing a Museum Journal, and further, to appeal for such funds as might be necessary to put its plans into operation. With a view to making the Association more completely representative of the museum organizations of the country, a committee was appointed to consider extending the membership, now chiefly composed of museum officers, among the various boards — national, municipal, and private — responsible for the control of museums. Active work in all these directions is looked for during the coming year.

G.